

Appln No. 09/642,190

Amdt date June 4, 2004

Reply to Office action of March 10, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13 are amended and new claims 17-19 are added.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Mohri et al. (US 5,643,034). Applicants submit that all of the claims previously pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "an insulating layer positioned directly on one of the pair of substrates," "each anode electrode having a conductive layer positioned directly on the insulating layer," and "wherein the control electrode is formed with a single-layered structure and is positioned directly on the insulating layer."

Mohri describes a fluorescent display tube including graphite layers. "The graphite layers 4 are covered at their upper surfaces by fluorescent layers 5 and surrounded by ribs 6 formed on the insulating layer 2, as shown in FIG. 3. The ribs 6 are made of an insulating material such as a glass material." (Col. 8, lines 58-61). "On the upper end faces of the ribs 6, there are formed by thick-film printing grid electrodes 7 in the same pattern as the ribs 6. . . . In this arrangement, the grid electrodes 7 are electrically insulated from the fluorescent layers 5". (Col. 8, line 67 to col. 9, line 9). The Office action construes the grid electrodes 7 of Mohri as control electrodes of the present invention. However, the grid electrodes 7 of Mohri are not "positioned directly on the

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insulating layer," which has the "conductive layer positioned directly on" it and itself is "positioned directly on one of the pair of substrates," as required by the independent claim 1. Rather, the grid electrodes 7 of Mohri are placed on top of the insulating ribs 6, which are in turn positioned on top of the insulating layer 2, that is the layer on which the graphite (conductive) layer 4 is positioned. As a result, the independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Mohri.

Independent claim 13 includes, among other limitations, "a control electrode spaced apart from the phosphor layer of each said anode electrode in the plane parallel to the plane of the one of the substrates and surrounding each said anode electrode at the periphery of each said anode electrode."

Mohri does not disclose the above limitation. The grid electrodes 7 of Mohri are not "spaced apart from the phosphor layer of each said anode electrode in the plane parallel to the plane of the one of the substrates." Rather, the grid electrodes 7 of Mohri are placed with "substantially no spacing between the fluorescent layer 5 and the corresponding grid electrode 7." (Col. 9, lines 20-23). Consequently, the independent claim 13 is not anticipated by Mohri either.

New independent claim 17 includes, among other limitations, "each anode electrode having a conductive layer and a phosphor layer formed on a first portion of the conductive layer leaving a second portion of the conductive layer exposed to the plurality of filaments," and "a control electrode surrounding said second exposed portion of the conductive layer."

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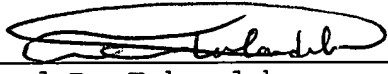
Again, Mohri does not disclose the above limitation. Rather, the fluorescent layer 5 (phosphor layer) of Mohri covers the entire surface of the graphite layer 4 (conductive layer). (See Fig. 3). Additionally, the grid electrodes 7 of Mohri do not include "a control electrode surrounding said second exposed portion of the conductive layer." As a result, the independent claim 17 is not anticipated by Mohri either.

In short, the independent claims 1, 13 and 17 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 2-12, 14-16, and 18-19 are all dependent from claims 1, 13 and 17, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claim 1 and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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